Afghanistan Women Council (AWC)

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Trip to Kabul Report

June 2002

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Director AWC

Motherland, National Unity, Human Rights

Date: June 22, 2002

To: AWC members and volunteers

From: Fatana Said Gailani
Director AWC

CC: All AWC members, United Nations Offices, Human Rights Organizations, Embassies, National and International Organizations and the world's media.

Subject: Trip to Kabul Report

Purpose of the trip:

1. To Participate in the traditional Loya Jirga (National Council) for selection of a leader for the future Administration of the country.
2. To visit the Afghanistan Women Council's Hospital (Nazo Ana) in Shahar e Naw, Kabul and other AWC activities in Kabul City.

Participants:
Ms. Fawzia Habibi, Ms. Qamar Wakili, Ms. Nasira Muhib and Fatana Said Gailani.

Itinerary:
June 09, 02. The team left Peshawar for Kabul.

June 10–19, 02. Attended the Loya Jirga and visited Mr. Karzai the elected head of the Government, Mr. Qanoni the Minister of Interior (the new Minister of Education), Marshal Fahim the Defense Minister, Dr. Abdullah the Foreign Minister, General Dostum the Head of Military in the Northern Region, Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi, Mr. Khalil Zad, Sibghatullah Mujadidi the ex President, and several of the participants in the Loya Jirga from various parts of the country as well as those came from the other countries to the Jirga.

June 20, 02. The team left Kabul for Peshawar.

Findings:

1.

- I entered to the long time war-damaged Kabul City after 23 years and failed very sad because of the poor women and men I saw begging around the city and the damaged roads and houses in the city. I was so frustrated and disturbed for the first time in my life of the situation specially when I saw the blue print plan of Jirga, which I can't explain. I had deeply concern of the national issue and the future of my people and my country in which I forget my young daughter for the first time for which I was

patent all the time. I never feel hunger and I didn't sleep properly because of what I saw in the city and more badly what I observed in the hall of Loya Jirga for 9 days.

- Loya Jirga held in the capital of the country after long time war, injustice, dictatorship and irregular power of various groups and interference of foregoers. It was a good step for a big hope for the people of Afghanistan to give them peace and stability, democracy and justice. Afghanistan Women Council (AWC) believed on the Loya Jirga the only way as a key solution of the conflict in the country and was straggling for this purpose and supporting the Jirga in the National and International level since 1980. We participated in this Loya Jirga to support peace and stability, Democracy, Solidarity and National Unity and abolish the ethnic, groups, language and geographical and religious problems in the country.

- We came from all parts of the country and abroad to claim our freedom and democracy, but instead are being met with systematic threats and intimidation aimed at undermining our free choice. We came strengthened by international declarations on human rights, but instead are facing international complicity in the denial of our rights. We came to represent the diverse interests of the entire Afghan nation, 1,500 delegates for 25 million people, but instead are being pressured to support the narrow readymade agenda. We came to inaugurate an inclusive and professional transitional government, but instead are being compelled to rubberstamp the Bonn Agreement's unjust power-sharing arrangements.

- On the first day of the Loya Jirga, we were filled with hope and enthusiasm. Most of us stayed up past midnight in spirited debates about the country's future. By the third day, a palpable demoralization has set in. Our time is being wasted on trivial procedural matters. We feel manipulated and harassed. Our historic responsibility to the Afghan nation is becoming a charade.
  We were in Kabul because we believe that participation and democracy are more than words on paper. We were not asking for much, after all. We tried to take an appointment for a message to be delivered to the Jirga participants since the first day of the Jirga but no chance has been given.

AWC thanks to United Nation and the International community for supporting the Loya Jirga, which was a good start toward a proper and elected government in the future but unfortunately it was not managed and supervised due to the tradition of the Jirga in which people were not able to say whatever they were supposed to say.

2. The Afghanistan Women Council (AWC)'s Hospital was visited and a meeting was held with the staff members. Their problems in various fields of their work have been solved and their suggestions and recommendations have been taken for further action in the near future.

Recommendations:

- We appeal to the international community, United Nation to support Afghanistan to improve the Government system by bringing the educated, scholars, scientists and politicians to the system for development of Afghanistan. People in the Government system should not be affiliated with any party to give attention to each and every field equally and bring the rest of the staff members to the Ministries from various tribes of the country's population. We request the Islamic Government of Afghanistan to give attention to the development of Afghan society and fulfill the requirement of the Afghans for which they dreamed from the past two decades.
- Peace should be bring to the country and power should be taken from those were involved in killing and looting from the past several years.
- Kabul City should be disarmed from the armed people of one group, which has discrimination against the other tribes and gropes.
- Life of politicians should be saved and security should be provided to the media people.
- The gropes that are closing themselves to the ISAF forces by identifying their enemy based on their internal crashes at the name of Al Qaida, they should stop their activities for killing the innocent Afghans in the name of Al Qaida. There is no Al Qaida in Afghanistan. The Government should have justice on the national issues.
- The Human Right Commission in Afghanistan should be able to report about all abuses of Human Rights in the country. The people who will work for this commission should be those who are known as a people not involved in any kind of activities against the Human Rights and discrimination among the Afghans.
- All foreigners those were involved in distraction of Afghanistan should change their mentality from distraction of Afghanistan to a friendship and help Afghanistan for making a new peaceful environment and help Afghanistan in development. United Nation and International community should evaluate the situation and help the Afghan government by providing them with scholarships in scientific studies in various fields to fulfill the gap made in the past several years in the war damaged country.
- The Pakistan and Iran Governments should understand that Afghanistan stayed in drought in the past three years and people lost their fields, animals and irrigation system and their houses are destroyed and need sometime to go and rehabilitate and reconstruct the distraction. Therefore, they should not push the refugees to left their country and United Nation and the International community should drew their attention to this serious issue.
- Political activities should not be banded and women should have an open environment for their choice in selection of suppose as the Islam said and they should be provided with the significant share in education and jobs within the government system.

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